TERROR TALES

K
47325

FEBRUARY
1973
60¢

FEATURING:

THE FIENDISH AND UNCANNY

STAGE OF HORROR

•

A BLOOD DRAINING MASTERPIECE

TORTURE

•

THE UNKNOWN BECOMES ALIVE IN

THE SHAPE OF EVIL

KING KONG

This full size wall poster is terrifying enough to be beautiful. Your room or den NEEDS this famous movie favorite--complete with steely, glinting eyes, and man-eating teeth. There is also the terrible Beast from 20,000 fathoms who terrified the country--a perfect companion for King Kong.

Item 639K.....King Kong.....$1.00
Item 639B.....The Beast.....$1.00
ORDER BOTH for $1.75 and save

ATOMIC SMOKE BOMB

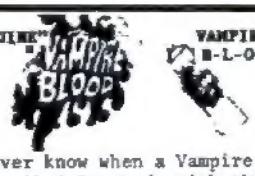
Light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.

No. 971 20c

PEN SIZE—CLIPS ON YOUR POCKET. 6 POWER MAGNIFIER.

Six power wide field magnifier is great for watching sporting events, nature study, girl watching and counter spying. Also contains a 30 power microscope. Not a toy but a real optical instrument.

No. F59 $1.50



You never know when a Vampire will strike! Be ready with this realistic-looking "Vampire blood" and watch the girls swoon. Non-toxic of course--absolutely safe. Comes in a tube.

Item No. 622.....50¢

JOY BUZZER

Windup novelty you wear like a ring. Your victim gets a "SHOCKING" hand shake. Absolutely harmless.

No. 239 Only 50c

"YAKKETY YAK" SKULL

Guaranteed to produce gales of ghoulish laughter. Looks like a real skull—but it doesn't just sit there looking! You trip the secret lever and the jaw chomps up and down and sounds off with a loud "Yakkety Yak" while the skull goes jumping around the table.

Item No. 317 $1.50

WORM TRICK

These innocent looking pellets magically turn to worms when dropped in a glass of water. Horrify your friends with this harmless trick.

No. 612 25c

RAQUEL WELCH PILLOW

ONLY $1.98 What man wouldn't enjoy spending a night with Raquel Welch? Well, we can't deliver her, but we can deliver that next best thing —a 12" x 24" inflatable pillow of Raquel made of rugged vinyl to serve as your headrest. Keep her for yourself or show her to your friends. Livens up party when everyone sees and feels this great gag item.

RR15....$1.98

JACK POT BANK

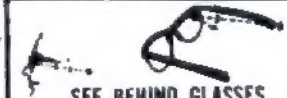
Dime-operated "One armed Bandit" works like those in Las Vegas. Deposit dime, pull handle, and reels spin like the real thing. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling.

No. 2040 $1.69

"SPUD" GUN

Here's the new fun gun everybody wants. It's a fast action toy that shoots potato pellets as far as fifty feet—with more than three hundred shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless and never runs out of ammunition.

No. F205 1.00



SEE BEHIND GLASSES

A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing that you're watching.

No. 30 75¢

PELLET FIRING SHORT TARGET RIFLE

only $2.95

WITH "SILENCER" PUMP ACTION

This hard hitting, quick action repeater fires pellets as fast as you can pull the trigger. Its authentic western style pump action with realistic "silencer" and extra large magazine makes this short rifle perfect for target practice. FREE: a generous supply of pellets and targets. Money back if not satisfied. Send only $2.95 plus 50c for postage and handling to:

ITEM NO.646

Not sold in N.Y. City

FREE PELLETS and TARGETS

THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."

No. 137 25c

COMPLETE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR KIT

★ BADGE ★ CARRYING CASE ★ SPECIAL I. D. CARD

ONLY $2.75

This professional type detective badge kit and case includes an extra heavy silvered nickle badge for use by private and special investigators PLUS authentic-type case and I.D. Card. Impress your friends with this official looking novelty. No.860...$2.75

FULL SIZE SKELETON

7 FEET TALL EYES GLOW IN THE DARK

This 7 foot tall "BONEY THE SKELETON" is scary enough at any time —but wait till you see him IN THE DARK in all his horrible, spine chilling grandeur, eyes glowing like fiery coals. If you like to haunt houses or frighten friends, this is for you! Or hang "Boney" in your room or to liven up a party.

No. F208 $1.00

ONLY 3.98

Weighted Wristlets

"Power Packed" Arm Builders To Give you mighty striking power

"Power Packed" wristlets build the powerful arms you want without special equipment or exercises. Just wear these rugged lead weighted wristlets during your ordinary activities at work or play.

#900.....$3.98

WORLDS UGLIEST HANDS

Slip these knobby "paws" on and watch your friends disappear. Ugh! They're awful! If you're got the courage, maybe you can have fun(?) with them.

Item No. 607...$1.98

LEARN HYPNOTIC CONTROL

Develop your hidden hypnotic powers to control the minds and bodies of men and women. Learn to perform amazing feats and entertain at parties. Easily learned from the new book "25 Lessons in Hypnotism."

No. 7212 45c

ONION GUM

Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 slices to a pack.

No. 281 20c

FOAMING SUGAR

Looks just like real sugar, but that's where the resemblance stops. When it's dropped in liquid, they overflow and form clouds of suds. Seems as though it'll never stop.

NO. 549 25c

WHOOPEE CUSHION

Place on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream

No. 247 50c

SURPRISE PACKAGE

Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.

No. 678 Only 50c

WEREWOLF HORROR MASK

This rubber mask is so grotesque that it is sure to shake up the whole neighborhood. Be the "Werewolf" that prowls again!

No. 26W....$1.98

MUSCLES OF STEEL

Results in just 30 days

Pocket gym slaps inches of muscle on your arms and torso. Gain the respect of your friends —the admiration of the girls. Keep fit and healthy. Fear no one! Made of heavy rubber.

No. 1001 only $1.00

MAGIC CARDS

Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks.

No. 183 $1.50

MONEYMAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob . . . and . . . OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10.

A135 1.25

What fun and laughs as you watch your zoo full of Sea Monkeys obey your commands, dance to music, and loop-the-loop. A "Variety Show" for the whole family for only $1. FREE Instruction Book, water purifier, and a FULL YEAR supply of growth food.

NO. FLS.....$1.00

OVER 1000 FREE GIFTS YOURS FOR THE ASKING

This miracle book gives the addresses of associations, federal agencies, and manufacturers that are anxious to send you ABSOLUTELY FREE samples, manuals, and books. A fabulous treasure trove completely up to date which will bring you gifts worth many times its low cost.

Item -88 50c

HONOR HOUSE PROD. CORP. DEPT. 472 GK 97
35 WILBUR ST., LYNBROOK, N.Y. 11563

Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.

We cannot accept orders totaling less than $1.00.

NAME & NUMBER OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

Please add 25c to total order for postage and handling.
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

NAME

ADDRESS ZIP

NY State residents add state and local sales tax.

TERROR TALES

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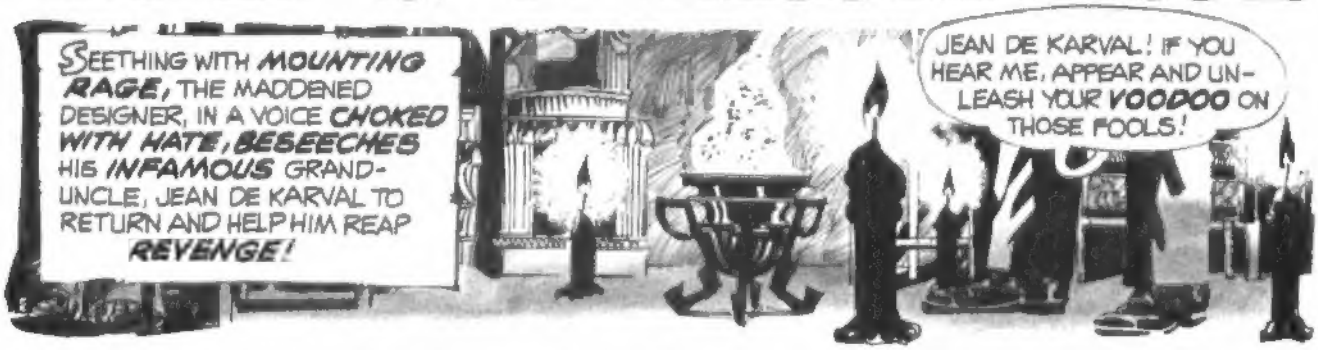
STAGE OF HORROR

WHEN THE FRENCH OCCUPIED THE WEST INDIES IN THE 18TH CENTURY, THEY WERE FORCED TO EMPLOY ***WITCH-CRAFT*** TO GAIN DOMINATION OVER THE SAVAGES. ONE OF THE CHIEF PRACTITIONERS OF THE ***DEVILISH ART*** WAS JEAN DE KARVAL...GREAT GRAND-UNCLE OF MAURICE DE KARVAL, THE DESIGNER OF BRILLIANT STAGE SETTINGS...

MR. DE KARVAL! PLEASE! YOU'RE DISRUPTING REHEARSAL AND UPSETTING MY CAST!

BAH! THOMAS MELVILLE IS NOT FIT TO PERFORM BEFORE THE SETTINGS OF THE GREAT MAURICE DE KARVAL!...ADIEU!


SEETHING WITH MOUNTING RAGE, THE MADDENED DESIGNER, IN A VOICE CHOKED WITH HATE, BESEECHES HIS INFAMOUS GRAND-UNCLE, JEAN DE KARVAL TO RETURN AND HELP HIM REAP REVENGE!
JEAN DE KARVAL! IF YOU HEAR ME, APPEAR AND UNLEASH YOUR VOODOO ON THOSE FOOLS!

THE DESIGNER'S CRAZED STARE IS RIVETED UPON HIS GRAND-UNCLE WHO HAS COME INTO VIEW...

LISTEN CLOSELY AND KNOW YOUR REVENGE!

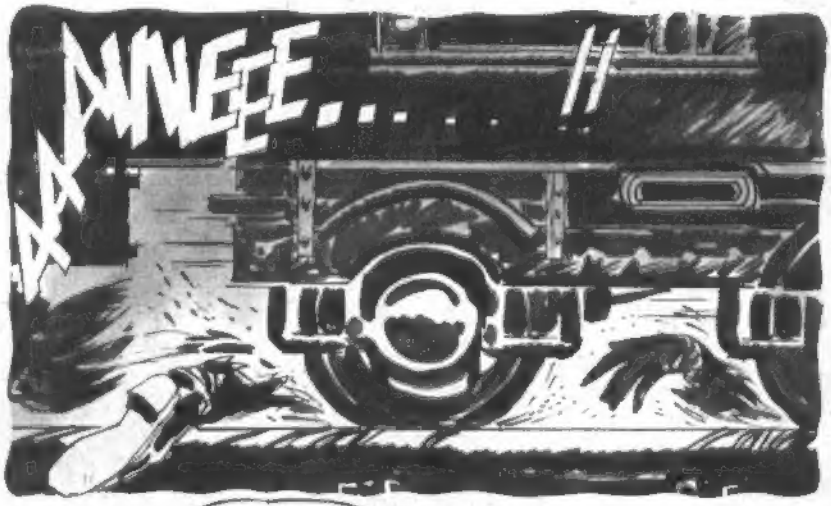
THE FIENDISH SPIRIT SHOWS MAURICE HOW TO CONSTRUCT A DOLL-LIKE IMAGE OF ACTOR THOMAS MELVILLE!
THAT'S IT! YOU HAVE THE HAIR! NOW THE STRING!

AND NOW PULL IT TIGHT!
UNAWARE THAT HIS VERY EXISTENCE IS BEING CHALLENGED, THOMAS MELVILLE GAZES PLACIDLY OUT HIS WINDOW AT TWO PAINTERS ON A SCAFFOLD....WHEN SUDDENLY...
THE ROPE ATTACHED TO THE SCAFFOLD PULLEY SEEMINGLY COMES ALIVE AND COILS ABOUT HIS NECK...
REHEARSALS CONTINUE, HOWEVER, AND THE STINGING LASH OF DE KARVAL'S WRATH IS FELT BY CLARICE HART, THE LEADING LADY....
YOU CALL YOURSELF AN ACTRESS! I GLORIFY YOU WITH INCOMPARABLE SETTINGS AND THIS IS YOUR THANKS!
CLARICE HART, IS IT! HEED ME NOW, OR YOU WILL BECOME THE LATE CLARICE HART!

HIS WARPED BRAIN CRACKED WITH RAGE, THE DESIGNER AGAIN SUMMONED THE WITCH DOCTOR...

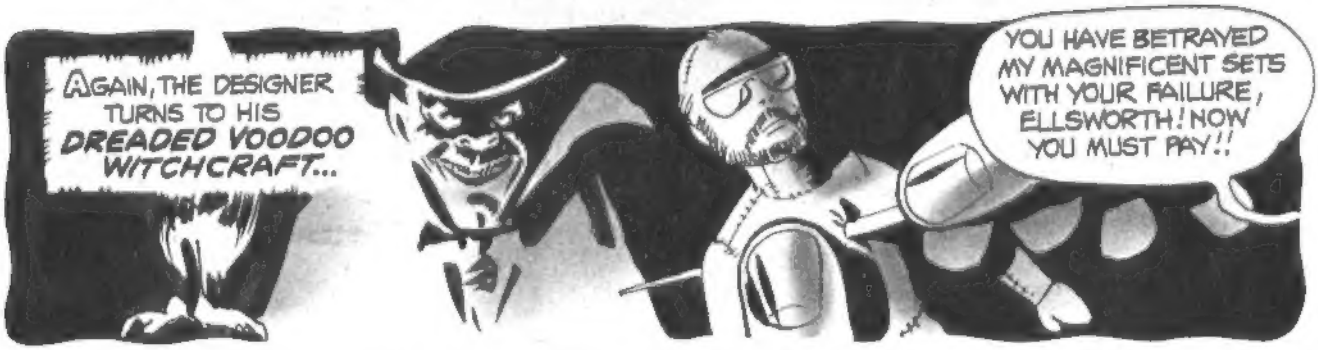
JEAN DE KARVAL INSTRUCTS THE DESIGNER TO EMPLOY A MODEL TRAIN TO BE.....THE INSTRUMENT OF DEATH!
VERY GOOD, MAURICE.... NOW RUN THE TRAIN OVER THE WOMAN!

ON A SUBWAY STATION, IN THE CITY, CLARICE HART HAS A SUDDEN DIZZY SPELL....


NNEEE...!!

HEE-HEE--HEE---REVENGE!

DE KARVAL'S SET WASTED IN OPENING LAST NIGHT!
DESTINED TO FAIL!!
POOR DIRECTING PARTLY RESPONSIB

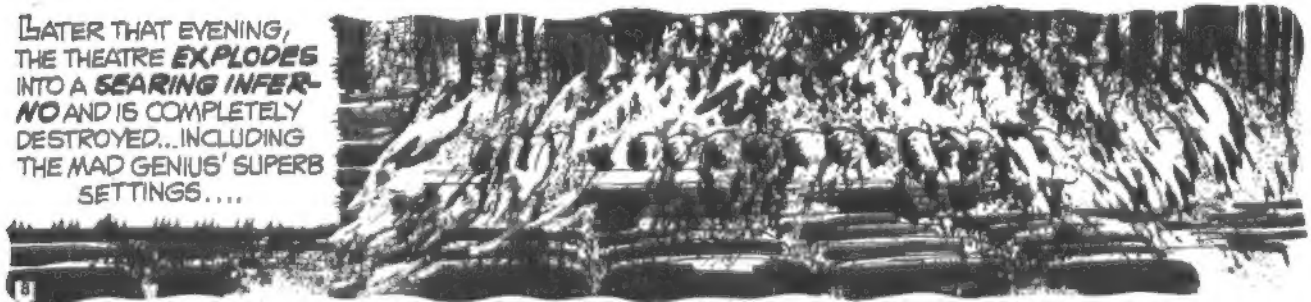

AGAIN, THE DESIGNER TURNS TO HIS DREADED VOODOO WITCHCRAFT...
YOU HAVE BETRAYED MY MAGNIFICENT SETS WITH YOUR FAILURE, ELLSWORTH! NOW YOU MUST PAY!!

A MORNING REHEARSAL HAS BEEN CALLED TO SALVAGE THE PLAY. AND AS ELLSWORTH DIRECTS HIS CAST, MAURICE DE KARVAL OBSERVES HIS EVERY MOTION WITH HATE....

AS DEATH IN ALL ITS NAKED VIOLENCE STRIKES...
SRAK!
ELLSWORTH! LOOK OUT!

...AND THE SOURCE OF LIGHT IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE DELIVERER OF DOOM...

MY GLORIOUS MASTERPIECES! NOT TO BE SEEN BY THE MULTITUDES WHO SHOULD BOW THEIR HEADS IN YOUR PRESENCE! YOUR TRAGEDY HAS BEEN AVENGED!


LATER THAT EVENING, THE THEATRE EXPLODES INTO A SEARING INFERNO AND IS COMPLETELY DESTROYED...INCLUDING THE MAD GENIUS' SUPERB SETTINGS....

RETURNING TO HIS STUDIO, COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THE HOLOCAUST THAT DEMOLISHED THE THEATRE, DE KARVAL DELIGHTS OVE THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HIS ***RETRIBUTION!***

TORTURE

AT A SECRET TESTING GROUND FOR NEW WEAPONS, TWO SCIENTISTS TALK. ONE OF THEM IS YOU! YOUR NAME IS TERRY BRADLEY!
NOW, TERRY, THE FINAL ADJUSTMENTS ARE UP TO YOU! BUT REMEMBER, WE SET THE BOMB OFF AT TWO SHARP! YOU MUST BE CLEAR OF THE DANGER AREA BY THEN!
DON'T WORRY, DAVE! THAT WILL GIVE ME PLENTY OF TIME FOR THE FEW THINGS I HAVE TO DO!

YOU START TO DO THOSE FEW THINGS, BUT...
NOW JUST TO CONNECT THESE LAST FEW WIRES, AND CLEAR OUT OF....AHHH!

YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT **LOOSE WIRES** BY NOW. BUT AT THE LAST SECOND YOU'VE BECOME **CARELESS**....

TWO MINUTES TO GO! THE AREA IS **COMPLETELY CLEARED!** GET READY, GENTLEMEN, FOR THE BLAST!

IT'S ONLY A MINUTE TO GO NOW... AND AT LAST YOU RECOVER....

ONLY A **MINUTE!** I...I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! GOT TO **STOP** THEM! I'M **TOO CLOSE!** WAIT! WAIT!

BUT THEY **DON'T** HEAR YOU...

WAIT! WA..... AAAIIEEE!!

YOUR VOICE IS LOST IN THE SPLITTING EXPLOSION...AND YOU ARE THROWN INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS. LATE THAT NIGHT, YOU ARISE...

UHHHHHAAAH! WH...WHERE AM I? **OOHOO... PAIN!!**

THE EXPLOSION! NOW I REMEMBER....I WAS CAUGHT! WATER! MUST HAVE WATER!! I...I'M **BURNING UP** INSIDE!!

ALL YOU KNOW IS THAT HORRIBLE BURNING INSIDE YOU...
I...I FEEL SO HOT...BURNING ALL OVER! MUST GET SOME WATER! BURNING UP! MY HANDS...THEY GLOW IN THE DARK!

YOU RUSH TO DR. DAVIS' LAB...
MMMM—THIS NEW COMPOUND OUGHT TO INTENSIFY THE RATION OF....HUH!! WHAT IN THE WORLD...TERRY!!!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? HERE... LET ME HELP Y..
NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!! I....I'M RADIOACTIVE... POISONED! WATER ...PLEASE, WATER!

HELP ME! (GULP-GULP!) DRIVING ME CRAZY! CAN'T STAND IT! (GULP-GULP) HELP ME...
AMAZING! YOU GLOW LIKE A NEON TUBE! WHY THIS WILL ASTOUND THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD!

LOOK, THIS IS TERRY! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE ME! DON'T LOOK AT ME AS IF I WERE A TEST TUBE! I'M A HUMAN BEING!
KEEP BACK, YOU FOOL! DO YOU WANT TO DESTROY ME TOO? NO—YOU'RE NOT HUMAN NOW!

YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS ANY LONGER..
YOU FIEND! I'M DYING AND YOU BLABBER! YOU...YOU...
STAY BACK!... YOU'RE MAD... MA ..
AHHH AHARGHGH!

THEY FOUND DAVIS A SHORT WHILE LATER...
LOOK! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO HIM!
HE'S BEEN CHOKED! QUICK—WE'D BETTER GET SECURITY OVER HERE IN A HURRY!

BUT YOU'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE...
HARRY, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? WHAT IS IT...HARRY—HE ..IT'S COMING TOWARD US!
EASY, NOW...I'M SURE IT ISN'T ANYTHING TO BE FRIGHTENED OF...
THEY ALL HATE ME!

AHHHH!
EEEEE!

THEN YOU RUN....
HE'S DEAD... DEAD...
HALT! OR I'LL SHOOT!

YOU FLEE TO THE SUBURBS. YOU LOOK EVERYWHERE, ANYWHERE FOR A PLACE TO HIDE. AND YOUR THROAT ROARS FOR WATER!
BACK! BACK, YOU BRUTE....I MUST HAVE WATER!
NEIGHHHHH!!

AHHHH....

FINALLY, YOU FIND A HIDING PLACE...

THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME IN HERE! NO ONE WOULD THINK OF LOOKING FOR A *LIVE* MAN IN A *GRAVEYARD!*

HEY, JOE! ....A *GLOW* COMING FROM THAT WINDOW?

C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT THE NEXT DAY YOU ARISE AND YOUR THROAT IS SCREAMING. YOU RUN FROM YOUR SANCTUARY ...AND YOU SEE A *HOUSE!*

I MUST SOOTHE MY THROAT....I MUST SOOTHE MY THROAT!

YOU USE EVERY BIT OF STRENGTH IN YOUR BODY.... AND YOU PUSH...

OPEN...*OPEN!*

AND FINALLY IT OPENS!

GOOD, NO ONE IS HOME! THERE...OVER THERE! PERHAPS *THAT* CAN HELP ME!

NO! DON'T BE A FOOL!

THIS SHOULD DO IT.... IT'S GOT TO DO IT...

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD AGAIN! REMEMBER THAT WHISKEY IS 48% ALCOHOL...

...AND IT BURNS!

AAIIEE!!

THE END

ON THE GNARLED FACE OF THE DESOLATE COUNTRYSIDE STANDS A SOLITARY TREE! FLOWING THROUGH IT IS THE SAP OF DEATH...

a Shape of EVIL

L-LET ME GO! NO! NO! PLEASE... UGHHH-H-H--

THE LIFE OF A MIGHTY TREE IS OFTEN A MILLENIUM, ITS SPAN OUT-LASTING GENERATIONS OF MEN...WHY?

--IT'S THIS FLUID! THIS IS THE SECRET OF LIFE! IF A MAN WERE TO REPLACE HIS BLOOD WITH THIS...

ON THE LAB, THE BOTONIST PRESSED THE NEEDLE INTO HIS ARM...

THERE! IT'S DONE! NOW, ONLY TIME, AND SCIENTIFIC TESTS CAN PROVE IF MY THEORY IS CORRECT!

HIS MIND FILLED WITH THE NEW ELIXER, HE LEFT RESTLESSLY THAT NIGHT! THEN IN THE MORNING...
NOW TO TEST MY DISCOVERY... Y!!!!! OH, NO!!
SOME... SOMETHING MUST HAVE GONE-- WRONG... I HAD TO CUT IT OFF!
THERE! NOW THIS GHASTLY CLAW WILL BE OUT OF MY SIGHT FOREVER!
BUT THE FOUL FLUID WHICH FLOWED IN HIS BLOOD DID NOT WISH TO STOP...
IT... IT'S STILL GROWING! I...I'M TURNING...
...INTO A...
...TREE!!

THE MAN WHO WOULD CONQUER DEATH TOOK ROOT, ALONE TO WATCH THE CENTURIES ROLL BY! THEN...

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENED TO ALAN! HE SAID HE'D BE BACK TWO DAYS AGO...

I--I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENED TO HIM...

BILL! TIM! H-HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS TREE! I WAS HERE LAST MONTH, AND THIS TREE WASN'T HERE! OH..YOU GOIN'? OKAY! I'LL STAY AWHILE TO LOOK AT THIS MORE CLOSELY!

NOT A SIGN OF HIM... NOT EVEN A NOTE!

HELP! LET ME GO! ARROWHH!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE MARTHA! LET'S GO!

LIKE THE SOUND OF A TORMENTED SOUL IN HELL, THE ANGUISHED SCREAM OF THE GIRL ECHOES OVER THE ESTATE!

IS... IS SHE...

...DEAD? YES...BUT HOW...WHO?

SOMEONE MUST HAVE TRIED TO HANG HER FROM THAT WEIRD-LOOKING TREE!

IT...IT'S INSANE! WE'D BETTER CALL THE POLICE!

THE GHASTLY TREE SEEMED TO SMILE WICKEDLY AS A GROUP OF POLICEMEN AND SCIENTISTS APPEARED A FEW HOURS LATER...
AND YOU SAY IT LOOKED LIKE AS IF THE TREE STRANGLED HER?
IT... IT'S CRAZY, I KNOW, BUT...

L-LOOK! IT-- IT'S KILLING THAT ANIMAL...
IT'S A KILLING TREE! IT'S A CREATURE OF EVIL!!

LOOK... LOOK HOW THE BIRDS AVOID THE TREE...
ONE'S GOING TO LAND ON IT! LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

AS THOUGH THE TREE WAS CHARGED WITH A DEADLY VENOM, THE BIRD FELL TO THE GROUND SECONDS AFTER IT TOUCHED THE TREE!
UGGH! LOOK HOW THE POOR BIRD'S CONTORTED...
HUH? H-HOW DID THE BIRD DIE?

WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT GIVES THIS POWER! WHY... IT.. IT'S BLEEDING!
HUMAN BLOOD!
BE CAREFUL! ONLY THE DEVIL KNOWS WHAT'S IN IT...

HELP! HELP ME... ARRGHH!
WH-- OH, THE TREE ... IT'S CRUSHING HIM TO DEATH!
DO SOMETHING! HELP HIM!

IT...IT'S KILLED HIM, TOO! LOOK! ANOTHER TREE IS GROWING THERE!
LET...LET'S DIG IT UP...

THE SOFT, DANK EARTH GAVE WAY EASILY, AND THE GHASTLY PLANT UPROOTED WAS...
A...A HAND! BILL, THAT RING... IT'S ALAN'S!!
IT'S ALAN'S HAND... BUT...BUT LOOK AT IT...

...BUT COULDN'T WE SPARE THE TREE FOR A SHORT WHILE--FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES?
NO! IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION, SIR! THAT TREE HAS CAUSED TOO MANY DEATHS ALREADY!

AS THOUGH THE TREE OF DEATH KNEW ITS FATE, IT BEGAN TO UPROOT ITSELF TO ESCAPE, AND...

...SPREAD TERROR BEFORE IT... AVENGE ITS FATE ON MAN...
EEEEEEKK!! P-PUT ME DOWN!

...AND CRUSH EVERYTHING IN ITS MARCH OF BLOODY DEATH...
UGH-H! YAHHHH...

IT'S GONE!
THIS TREE IS NOT A MERE PLANT! IT SEEMS TO HAVE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE...

I'VE FOUND IT! COLLINS THOUGHT TO LENGTHEN HUMAN LIFE BY SUBSTITUTING PLANT SAP FOR BLOOD! THAT TREE MUST BE THE RESULT OF HIS EXPERIMENT!
IT ALL FITS...THE RING...ALAN'S EMBRACING MARTHA, HIS FIANCEE

A CORDON OF MEN IS THROWN AROUND THE AREA...HUNTING DOWN THE MAD TREEMAN...
I GOT IT...IT'S BLEEDING!

HE WENT THIS WAY, SIR! I HIT HIM BUT IT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD...
WE'LL NEVER GET HIM WITH GUNS... HE'LL HAVE TO BE CHOPPED DOWN AND BURNED...

LIKE A WEIRD AND FIERCE HOMING BEAST, THE BLOODY TREE PLODS BACK...
IT'S BACK AGAIN... PERHAPS IN TIME, IT WILL BECOME A NORMAL TREE, BUT...
... BUT WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCE... I'LL CUT IT DOWN!

MAYBE HE'LL KILL YOU LIKE HE DID THE OTHERS!
YOU FORGET THAT THIS TREE WAS ALAN COLLINS... MY FRIEND! HE KNOWS THAT I'M DOING WHAT'S RIGHT! I WON'T BE HARMED!

OHH-- UMHHHH!
IT... IT'S WAILING...

CUTTING DEEPLY INTO THE BLEEDING FLESH OF THE TREE, THE AXE FOUND THE HEART AND THE TREE CRUMBLED TO THE EARTH...
OOOOO OOOO!!

FORGIVE ME--ALAN... IT HAD TO BE DONE! AT LEAST YOU PROVED THAT YOUR THEORY OF LIFE WAS FALSE!

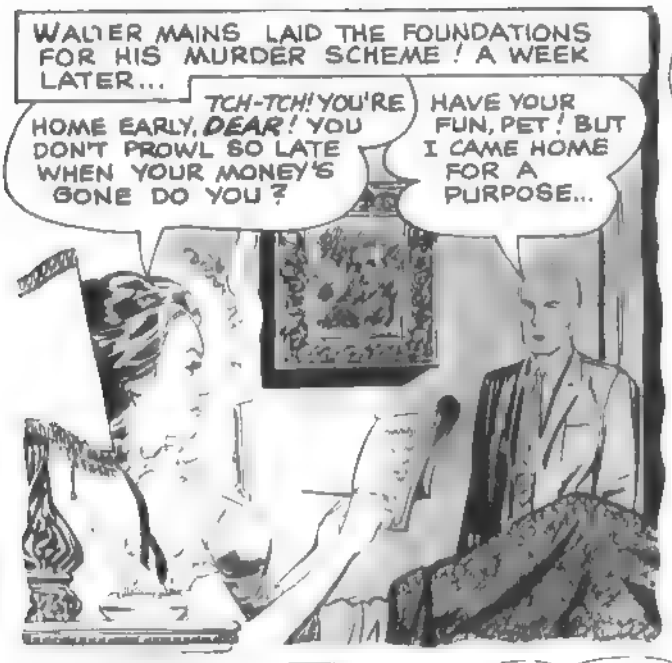
EEEEEEE!!

AS THE SMOKE RISES, THE EERIE VOICE COMING FROM THE TREE GRADUALLY FADES AWAY AND THEN... SILENCE!
THE END

THE CORPSE

"I'LL NEVER LET YOU LEAVE ME," ANNE MAINS TOLD THE HUSBAND WHO HATED HER! BUT WALTER MAINS HAD NO IDEA HOW DESPERATELY SHE MEANT THOSE WORDS...UNTIL SHE LAY DEAD AT HIS FEET!

MAINS, YOUR WIFE IS A FAMOUS CHEMIST...BUT SHE'S GOT TO STOP SMOKING IN BED! THIS IS THREE FIRES SHE'S SET THIS WAY!
I'VE TRIED CHIEF, BUT SHE FORGETS HERSELF!
POOR WALTER! YOU KEEP HOPING YOU'LL FIND ME BURNED TO DEATH SO YOU CAN START SPENDING ALL MY MONEY ON YOUR TRAMP FRIENDS!
OH, SHUT UP! IF YOU HATE ME SO, WHY DON'T YOU PAY ME TO GET OUT?
NO, DARLING! YOU MARRIED ME FOR MY MONEY AND SOME DAY YOU'LL GET IT... BUT I'LL MAKE YOU SUFFER AND SWEAT FOR EVERY PENNY!
YOU...YOU WITCH! I HATE YOU!
AND I HATE YOU TOO, DEAREST! NOW RUN ALONG! I'VE GOT AN IDEA FOR A NEW CHEMICAL PRODUCT!
WHY NOT INVENT A POISON FOR WIVES WHO HAVE LIVED TOO LONG? I'LL BUY THE FIRST GALLON MYSELF!
WHAT WOULD YOU BUY IT WITH, SWEETHEART? YOU'VE SPENT YOUR ALLOWANCE... AND I WON'T GIVE YOU ANOTHER PENNY THIS WEEK!
BAH! POISON WOULD BE TOO EASY A WAY FOR YOU TO DIE!
SLAM
BLAST HER! I WISH SHE WERE DEAD! I'D BE RICH AND FREE! SHE ENJOYS TORTURING ME!
SHE KNOWS I'D KILL HER IF I WAIT! THERE IS A WAY! I'VE BEEN A FOOL NOT TO SEE IT!
ALL IT NEEDS IS PLANNING AND PATIENCE! THEN I'LL BE FREE... FREE AND RICH! HA-HA-HAA!


WALTER MAINS LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR HIS MURDER SCHEME ! A WEEK LATER...
TCH-TCH! YOU'RE HOME EARLY, DEAR! YOU DON'T PROWL SO LATE WHEN YOUR MONEY'S GONE DO YOU?
HAVE YOUR FUN, PET! BUT I CAME HOME FOR A PURPOSE...

TO KILL YOU!
WALTER YOU FOOL! GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU'LL BE CAUGHT AND BURNED!

YOUR WRONG! I'LL KILL YOU TONIGHT AND NEVER EVEN BE SUSPECTED! YOU SHOWED ME HOW!

YOU'VE BEEN SMOKING IN BED AGAIN, DARLING! YOU'LL SET THE BED ON FIRE AND BURN UP, MY LOVE!

THE FIRE CHIEF WARNED ME THIS MIGHT HAPPEN! HE'LL TESTIFY THAT YOU KILLED YOURSELF!

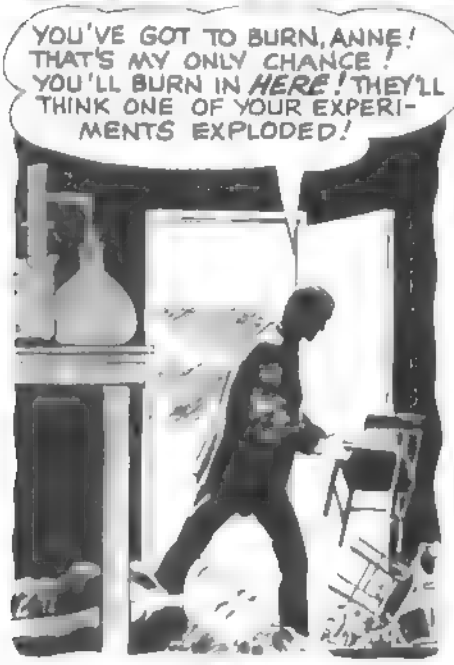
YOU SAID YOU'D NEVER LET ME LEAVE YOU! HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT NOW, MY LOVE? YOU'VE LEFT ME... FOREVER I'M FREE... FREE!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THIS BEDSPREAD? IT WON'T CATCH FIRE! JUST LAST WEEK IT BLAZED UP WHEN SHE DROPPED HER CIGARET!

THEY WON'T BURN! NOTHING BURNS! THE SHEETS... THE BLANKETS...THE PILLOWS! THEY'VE GOT TO CATCH FIRE! BUT THEY DON'T EVEN SMOULDER!
EEAAHH! THE CURTAINS WON'T BURN, EITHER! BUT I'VE GOT TO HAVE A FIRE! OTHERWISE THEY'LL SEE MY FINGERMARKS ON HER THROAT!
NOTHING BURNS! I CAN'T EVEN SET FIRE TO PAPER!
YOU'RE DOING THIS TO ME, BLAST YOU! YOU'RE DEAD BUT YOU WON'T LET ME BE FREE!
THROUGH HAZE OF TERROR, WALTER MAINS HEARD HIMSELF BABBLING, SOBBING, PLEADING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE DEAD!
I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF YOU!
I'LL BURY YOU OUT HERE AND SAY YOU JUST WENT AWAY! IF THEY FIND YOU, THEY CAN'T PROVE I KILLED YOU!
POLICE! WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE!
FUNNY! I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING MOVE IN MAINS YARD! TURN AND SWING BACK ONCE MORE, SAM!

I GOT IN BEFORE THEY TURNED... BUT THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE! I CAN'T RISK DIGGING A GRAVE!

PLEASE... PLEASE, ANNE! YOU SWORE YOU'D NEVER LET ME LEAVE YOU! TAKE IT BACK! LET ME RUN AWAY! LET ME LEAVE YOU SOMEWHERE SO THEY WON'T FIND YOU! ANNE... PLEASE!


YOU'VE GOT TO BURN, ANNE! THAT'S MY ONLY CHANCE! YOU'LL BURN IN HERE! THEY'LL THINK ONE OF YOUR EXPERIMENTS EXPLODED!

NOW YOU'LL BURN, CURSE YOU! EVERYTHING IN HERE WILL BURN..

HA HA HAAA! YOUR POWER IS GONE NOW, ISN'T IT, DEAR? YOU'VE FINALLY GOT TO LET ME LEAVE YOU!

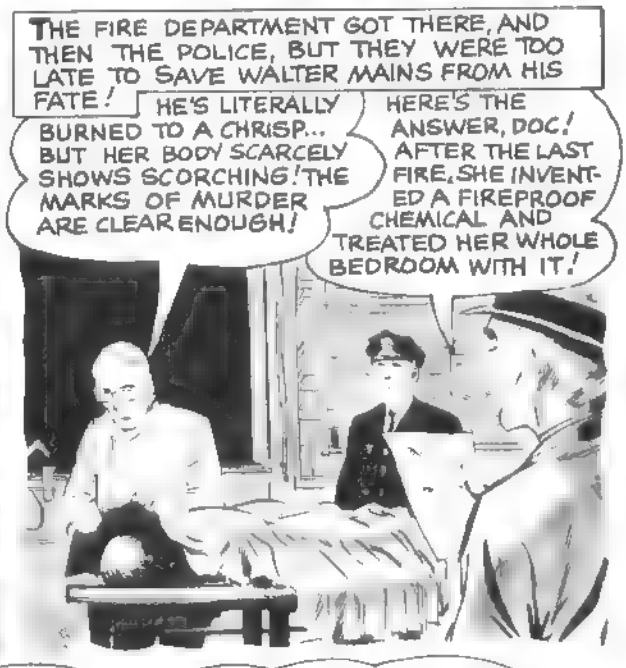
COME, MY PET! ONTO THE FIRE WITH YOU! THE BEAUTIFUL FIRE THAT WILL SET ME FREE!

FAREWELL, DEAR ANNE! THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE. EEEAAA! LET GO! MY COAT!...

LET GO OF ME! ANNE! FOR THE LOVE OF MERCY... LET ME GO!

I'M ON FIRE! I'M BURNING! HALP! HALP!

ANNE! ANNE! ARGHHH...


THE FIRE DEPARTMENT GOT THERE, AND THEN THE POLICE, BUT THEY WERE TOO LATE TO SAVE WALTER MAINS FROM HIS FATE!
HE'S LITERALLY BURNED TO A CHRISP... BUT HER BODY SCARCELY SHOWS SCORCHING! THE MARKS OF MURDER ARE CLEAR ENOUGH!
HERE'S THE ANSWER, DOC! AFTER THE LAST FIRE, SHE INVENTED A FIREPROOF CHEMICAL AND TREATED HER WHOLE BEDROOM WITH IT!

EVEN HER HAIR WAS SPRAYED! HE TRIED TO SET A FIRE IN THE BEDROOM TO DESTROY HER BODY!
IT MIGHT HAVE WORKED OTHERWISE!

WHAT IRONY. RIGOR MORTIS CLOSED HER HAND ON HIS JACKET!
I NEVER SAW RIGOR MORTIS SET IN THAT FAST BEFORE, DOC! IT'S ALMOST AS IF SHE WANTED TO HOLD HIM UNTIL HE BURNED!

MAYBE SHE DID, DAVE! SHE'S LYING THERE NOW WITH A SMILE ON HER FACE... THE SMILE OF A WOMAN WHO KEPT A PROMISE!
END

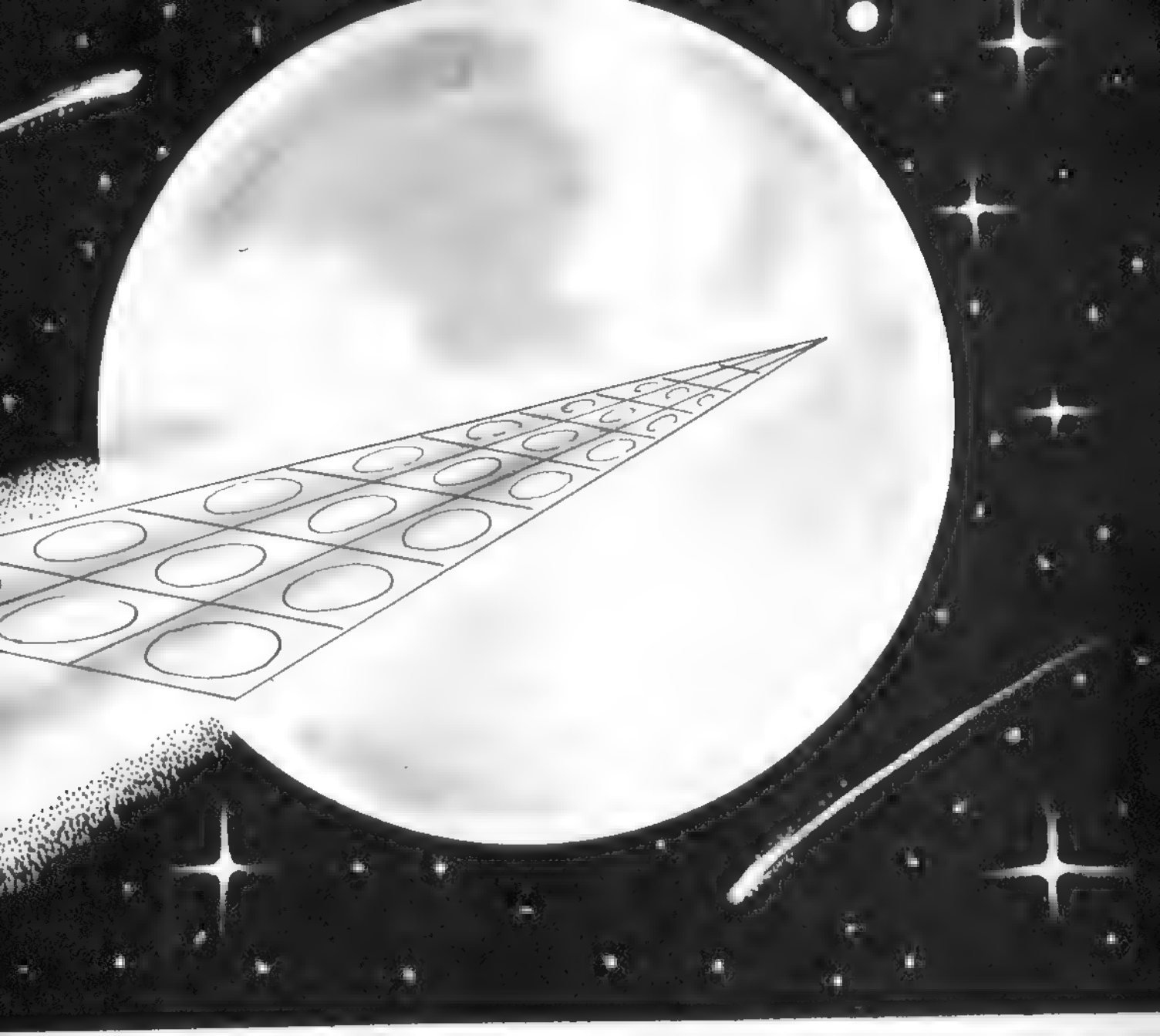
■ Modern sightings of UFO formations moving at speed of thousands miles an hour are among the most convining evidences of unknown aerial vehicles traversing our skies.

Yet, such UFO fleets have been reported for as long as man has observed the heavens. Scientific and astronomical journals of the past contain many such reports.

1849—The *Report of the British Association* for 1849 contained a letter from Sir Robert Inglis, describing a host of objects seen by him at Gais, Switzerland, on Aug. 8 of that year. He reported seeing thousands of objects, white in color, moving through a cloudless sky. For about 25 minutes, beginning at 3:00 p. m., Inglis and a servant observed the strange forms, the servant discerning something resembling wings on the objects.

1851—On Sept. 4 of this year, the Rev. W. Read, an English astronomer, observed a multitude of self-luminous bodies passing through the field of his telescope. Beginning at 9:30 a. m., the Rev. Mr. Read observed the objects for six hours. Some moved slowly, some rapidly, and all appeared to be confined to a zone which was several degrees wide. Most moved from east to west, but occasionally one was seen traveling from north to south. The total number of objects observed was tremendous. In his report to the Royal Astronomical Society (as published in their *Monthly Notices)* the objects were described as round and sharply defined.

1863—Great numbers of small shining bodies were seen by an observer named Waldner, who reported this observation to the scientific journal *Nature*. Noting that he had notified Dr. Wolf of the Observatory of Zurich in Switzerland, Waldner stated that Dr. Wolf had also observed the objects and has "convinced himself of this strange phenomenon." There was great diversity in the shape of the objects, which were seen on April 27. Some were reported to be star-shaped, with



transparent appendages. Dr. Wolf also informed Waldner that similar objects had been seen by Signor Capocci of the Capodimonte Observatory in Naples, Italy, on May 11, 1845.

1870—At Bangalore, India, a Lt. Herschel observed "an unusual phenomenon" on both Oct. 17 and 18. While observing the sun, Herschel noticed dark shadows crossing the solar disc. Away from the sun, there were luminous, moving shapes. During the two days of observation, the objects crossed the face of the sun in a continuous stream. They varied in both size and velocity. Trying a different focusing of his telescope, Herschel saw wing-like appendages on the strange bodies. One object paused and hovered momentarily on the sun's face. Herschel's comments, as printed in the Royal Astronomical Society's *Monthly Notices,* summed up the observations as follows: " . . . the continuous flight, for two whole days, in such numbers, in the upper regions of the air, of beasts that left no stragglers, is a wonder of natural history, if not of astronomy."

1880—The magazine, *Nature,* for May 20, 1880, reported the observation of a "remarkable phenomenon" at Kattenau, near Trakehnen, Germany, on March 22 of that year. "About half an hour before sunrise an enormous number of luminous bodies rose from the horizon and passed in a horizontal direction from east to west. Some of them seemed of the size of a walnut, others resembled the sparks flying from a chimney. They moved through space like a string of beads, and shone with a remarkably brilliant light. The belt containing them appeared about 3 metres in length and 2/3 metre in breadth."

Also in 1880, on Nov. 30, Signor Ricco of the Observatory of Palermo in Italy, saw two long parallel lines of mysterious objects crossing the solar disc at a leisurely pace. A shorter parallel line was also observed. Again, as with earlier observers, Ricco saw what appeared to be wings

of some type on the objects. He eli imated their altitude to be at least 5½ miles, far too high for flocks of migrating birds.

1881—A definite display of intelligently-directed movements is evident in a report printed in the Lamoni, Iowa, *Saint's Herald* of Dec. 1, 1881. Stating that the account had originally appeared in a recent copy of the Springfield, Mo., *Evening News*, the *Saint's Herald* reprinted the following story:

WHAT WAS IT?—WONDERFUL FORMATION OF THE STARS—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

About half past ten o'clock last night, a strangely peculiar sight was observable in the heavens. As the writer is not an astronomer, nor the son of one, he can only give the astronomical formation as it appeared to his verdant eyes. A star was noticed to shoot in the direction, a little north of east, almost directly toward the moon, and when apparently, to an uncultured eye, within two feet of Luna, it stopped; this was followed by four other stars, which took positions a few inches distant, and in a direct line behind the first. This was followed by fully fifty other stars, all of which were wonderfully brilliant, which formed a perfect pyramid, funnel or triangular shape. The shape when completed contained just fifty stars.

In this shape they remained for fully half an hour, apparently stationary, and the sight was truly beautiful and novel in the extreme. At the end of the half hour they began to "break ranks," or "take their departure," and the move was made as systematically as it was formed, and about as coolly and deliberately as a company of well disciplined soldiers would disband or obey an order. The first star to go into position was the first to move away, and it shot toward the moon, which was just coming up, and seemed to be directly over Governor Woodson's house. This star soon disappeared and was lost sight of in the greater light of the moon. It was followed, and deliberately, too, and in equal time, by star after star, until each and every one of fifty had disappeared in the same manner as the first had done. The sight was truly a beautiful one, and such a one as the writer never before beheld. There were five or six others "taking observations" at the time, and all pronounced it an astronomical phenomenon. The whole thing was very deliberate, apparently, coolly and systematically executed. They marched into place as gracefully as the Saxton Rifles, and broke ranks with as much grace and precision. The formation was apparently directly over Governor Woodson's home. The space between the several stars appeared like a few inches, and between the first or tail star and the moon like forty or fifty feet, when it was doubtless countless thousands of miles. What does it mean? Is the question the *News* would like to ask some able-bodied astronomer or scientific individual.

Such mass formations of strange craft constitute definite evidence that our planet has long been host to an array of non-Earthy visitors ●

THE SPACE VAMPIRES

AND SO, A FLEET OF GIANT PALMOORAN WARSPACERS SWEEP PAST PLUTO AND NEPTUNE! WORD OF THEIR COMING IS CARRIED BY MICROWAVES!
GETTING SLEEPY... GOT TO SEND WORD OF THOSE SHIPS..
WITHIN FIVE MINUTES AFTER THE ATTACK, MEN STAND OR SIT OR LIE CRUMPLED ON THE METALLIC FLOOR-- SOUND ASLEEP...
NOT FAR AWAY, CAPTAIN DAN BENTON IS ON SCOUT PATROL DUTY! HIS WRISTBEAMER CATCHES A FEW WORDS BEFORE SILENCE FALLS...
...SO SLEEPY... SHIPS FIRING BUT... NOTHING HAPPENS...
PLENTY HAPPENS! WHOEVER THEY ARE. THEY PUT YOU ALL TO SLEEP! BUT-- WHY?
ON BENTON'S RELAY BROADCAST, FLEET HEADQUARTERS AT MARS CITY ROARS INTO ACTION...
ALL HANDS TO SHIP! TAKE OFF TIME TWENTY-SEVEN ZERO!
THE SPACE FLEETS MEET WITH DARTING RAYS AND SCORCHING FIRE-BALLS THAT EAT THROUGH STEEL...
IN THE PALMOORA FLAGSHIP STANDS MYRZA, EYES BRIGHT WITH TRIUMPH...
WE'LL HAVE THEIR FINEST SOLDIERS HELPLESS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!
THOUSANDS OF MEN! WITH THEIR VITAL LIFEFORCE INTACT! WE'LL TAKE THEM TO PALMOORA!

LATER IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE FLAGSHIP OF THE ALIEN FLEET...
WE'LL TREAT THESE PEOPLE WELL-- UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE NEED THEIR BLOOD!

WORD OF THE TERRIBLE DEFEAT BRINGS DISMAY TO THE EARTH-MARS HIGH COMMAND...
WE'LL HAVE TO PULL SHIPS OFF VENUS AND MERCURY! BRING THEM IN AROUND EARTH AND MARS!
IF WE COULD ONLY LEARN WHAT WEAPON THEY USE!
WE HAVE A MAN OUT THERE NOW... SCOUTING!

AT THAT MOMENT, BENTON IS LANDING ON AN ASTEROID OUTSIDE JUPITER...
THOSE ALIENS ARE DOING A LOT OF BUILDING! I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK!

BY MAKING OBSERVATIONS AND MICROFILM REPORTS, I'LL WARN HEADQUARTERS OF WHAT GOES OUT HERE!

YOU MUST ALLOW FOR TORPEDO TUBES TO PROJECT THROUGH THE GLASS AIR ENCLOSURE!
IT SHALL BE DONE, HIGHNESS!

WHY ARE THEY BUILDING HERE, WHEN THEY COULD GO INTO MARS CITY? DON'T THEY KNOW THAT OUR CRIPPLED FLEET IS NO PROTECTION FOR MARS AND EARTH?

WE MIGHT NOT HAVE KNOWN THAT BEFORE--BUT WE KNOW IT NOW! GET HIM... ALIVE!
WHY DO THEY WANT ME ALIVE? BE A LOT EASIER JUST TO RAY ME DOWN! THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

YIELD, BEFORE WE ARE FORCED TO BLAST YOU INTO SMOKE!
TRY TAKING ME!

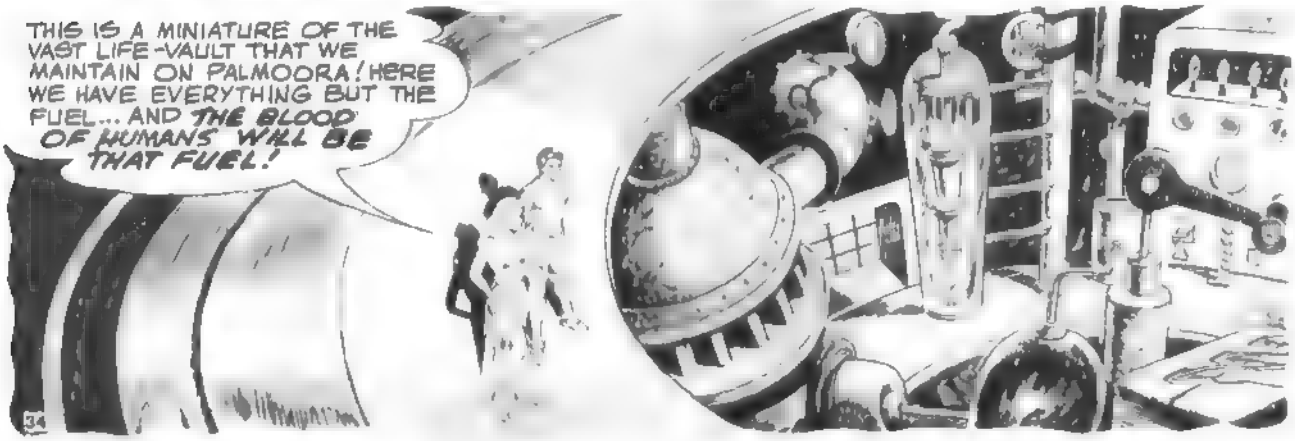
GOT TO GET ROOM TO USE MY BEAM GUN!

BENTON WHIRLS, HIS ELECTRONIC HANDGUN BLASTS AGAIN AND AGAIN...
NOW...TO GET TO MY SHIP AND RELAY THOSE MICROFILMS.

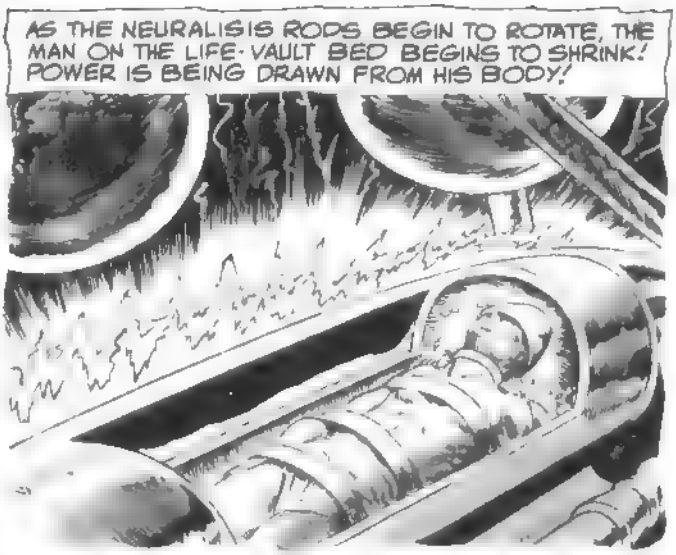
I'LL TRIP HIM UP! YOU OTHERS GO AFTER HIM!
WHAT THE....!

WE HAVE HIM!
HE'LL MAKE A GOOD OFFERING TO THE LIFE-VAULTS! THERE'S PLENTY OF LIFE IN HIM!
HE IS A TOUGH ONE!

BLEEDING AND EXHAUSTED... BENTON IS DRAGGED BEFORE THE CRUEL BUT LOVELY MYRZA...
IF HE IS SUCH A FIGHTER, I WILL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF HIM! BRING HIM ALONG WITH ME!


THIS IS A MINIATURE OF THE VAST LIFE-VAULT THAT WE MAINTAIN ON PALMOORA! HERE WE HAVE EVERYTHING BUT THE FUEL... AND THE BLOOD OF HUMANS WILL BE THAT FUEL!

OUR FIRST OFFERING... A SOLDIER OF YOUR FLEET! WATCH CLOSELY, EARTHLING!


AS THE NEURALISIS RODS BEGIN TO ROTATE, THE MAN ON THE LIFE-VAULT BED BEGINS TO SHRINK! POWER IS BEING DRAWN FROM HIS BODY!

MAD WITH RAGE AND HORROR, BENTON DIVES FORWARD...
WHY YOU! VAMPIRES! PREYING ON OTHER LIVING BEINGS!
YOU FOOL!

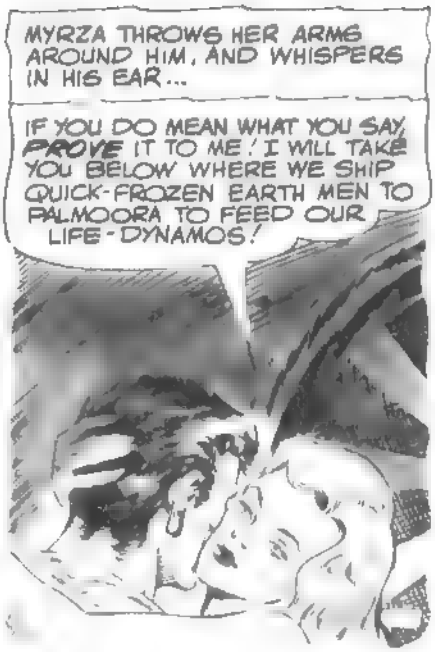
YOU DARE ATTACK ME! I AM IMMORTAL, EARTH FOOL!

I WILL PROVE IT TO YOU! THEN YOU WILL BE OFFERED TO THE LIFE-VAULT!

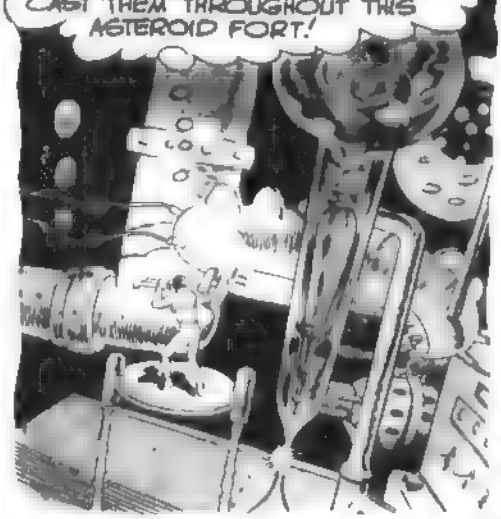
MOVE ALONG, EARTH MAN. BUT REMEMBER... I AM JUST BEHIND YOU!
I GUESS MY PEOPLE ARE CHILDREN WHEN IT COMES TO SCIENCES LIKE YOURS! IF... IF I COULD JOIN YOU...?

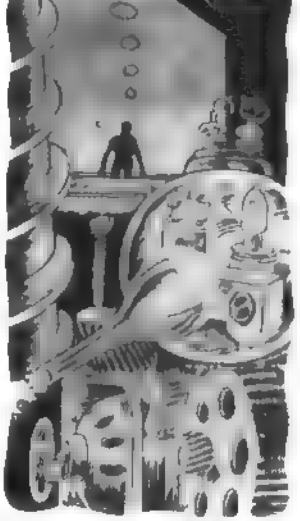
WE COULD USE SOMEONE TO LURE EARTHMEN INTO OUR TRAPS!
ALL I ASK IS... A CHANCE!
GOT TO HAVE TIME... I MUST STALL HER..

IF BENTON DOES NOT CONVINCE HER THAT HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH--HIS BODY WILL SHRINK TO NOTHINGNESS IN THE LIFE-VAULT!



THE ULTRA-VIOLET RAY IS MELTING THE PROTECTIVE JEWEL THAT MYRZA GAVE ME! NO WONDER MYRZA WANTED NO OXYGEN LEAKING OUT! BECAUSE IF OXYGEN COULD LEAK OUT -- ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS FROM SUNLIGHT COULD LEAK IN!


BENTON HURRIEDLY BUILDS A GIGANTIC ULTRA-BEAM-WAVE TRANSMITTER...
I'LL EQUIP THIS THING WITH A MOTOR THAT WILL REVOLVE IT... BUILD UP ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS AND BROADCAST THEM THROUGHOUT THIS ASTEROID FORT!


AH! IN FIFTEEN MINUTES IT WILL BUILD UP ENOUGH ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS TO DO THE JOB!

ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT IS INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE, SO, MYRZA SEES NOTHING TO ALARM HER...
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ARE BUILDING, BENTON? IT JUST KEEPS TURNING AROUND AND AROUND!
A SURPRISE FOR YOU, MIGHTY PRINCESS! BUT COME! IT MUST BE TIME FOR MY TEST OF LOYALTY!

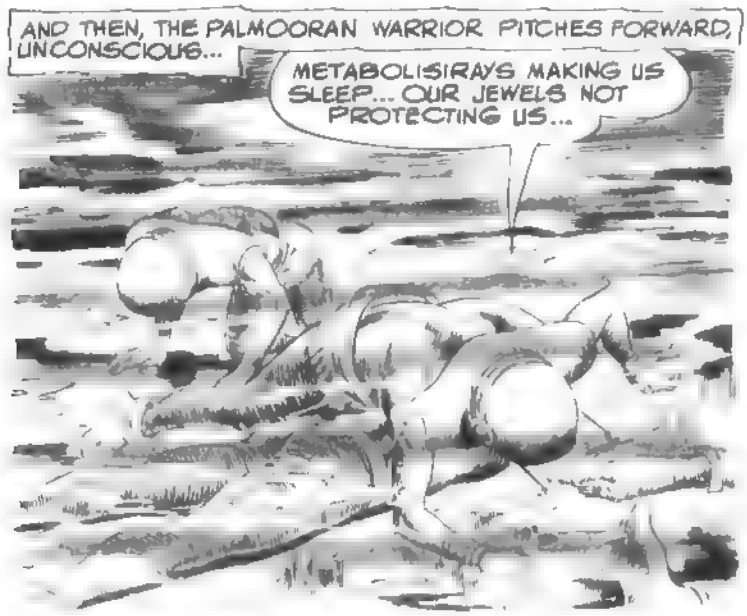
THIS IS WHERE WE PLACE QUICK-FROZEN HUMANS, AND SHOOT THEM THROUGH SPACE TO PALMOORA!

AND THIS IS HOW I'M GOING TO SMASH YOUR ATTEMPT TO DRINK THE LIFE BLOOD OF HUMAN BEINGS!
WHAT ??

QUICK -- YOU OTHERS! THE METABOLISIRAY! PUT HIM TO SLEEP -- THEN -- INTO THE LIFE VAULT!
NO YOU DON'T -- BY SMASHING THIS SWITCH, I'VE HALTED YOUR BROADCAST POWER BEAMS!

SNARLING WITH ANGER, THE EVIL WARRIORS HURL THEMSELVES ON CAPTAIN BENTON...
GOT TO GIVE MY ULTRA-VIOLET RAY ROTOR TIME TO GET TO WORK...

HALF ASLEEP, BENTON PITCHES FORWARD AS A PALMOORAN WARRIOR LUNGES AT HIM FOR THE COUP-DE-GRACE...
NO USE! THOSE SLEEP RAYS ARE SWEEPING THE ENTIRE PLACE PUTTING ME TO SLEEP...


AND THEN, THE PALMOORAN WARRIOR PITCHES FORWARD, UNCONSCIOUS...
METABOLISIRAYS MAKING US SLEEP... OUR JEWELS NOT PROTECTING US...

THESE JEWELS--MELTING! OUR SLEEP RAYS WILL PUT US TO SLEEP NOW! AND WITH SLEEP, THE LIFE FORCE WILL NOT FUNCTION .. WE WILL DIE ... DIE!

WHEN CAPT. BENTON OPENS HIS EYES AND STAGGERS ERECT, DEATH IS ALL ABOUT HIM...
DEAD! ALL OF THEM—DEAD! THE SLEEP RAYS... THAT ONLY PUTS US TO SLEEP--KILLS THEM!

THE LOVELY BUT EVIL MYRZA--GONE! VANISHED LIKE HER DREAMS OF CONQUEST!

WE CAN GO TO PALMOORA NOW--WIPE OUT THIS VAMPIRE RACE! FIND A NEW PLANETARY SYSTEM WAITING FOR US TO MAKE SAFE FOR MANKIND AND PEACE--FOREVER!

The DEVIL COLLECTS

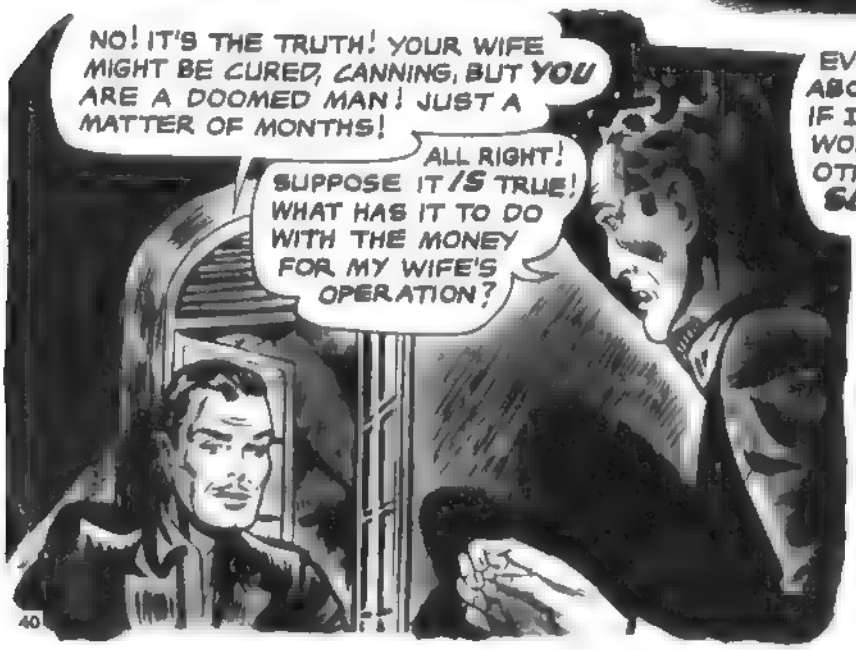
HE MADE A TERRIBLE BARGAIN, THEN TRIED TO WELCH! BUT THE ONE BILL COLLECTOR YOU CAN'T DUCK IS **DEATH!** AND GOOD IMPULSES GONE ASTRAY, CAN TURN TO THE WORST OF EVIL! THE **DEVIL** ALWAYS COLLECTS HIS DEBTS, AS REED CANNING FOUND OUT, BECAUSE HIS OWN **BODY** WAS PAST DUE...

I COULD OPERATE, BUT NOT HERE! WE HAVEN'T THE FACILITIES! IT MUST BE ENGLAND — OR SHE DIES!
GREAT HEAVENS! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I C-CAN'T RAISE THE MONEY!

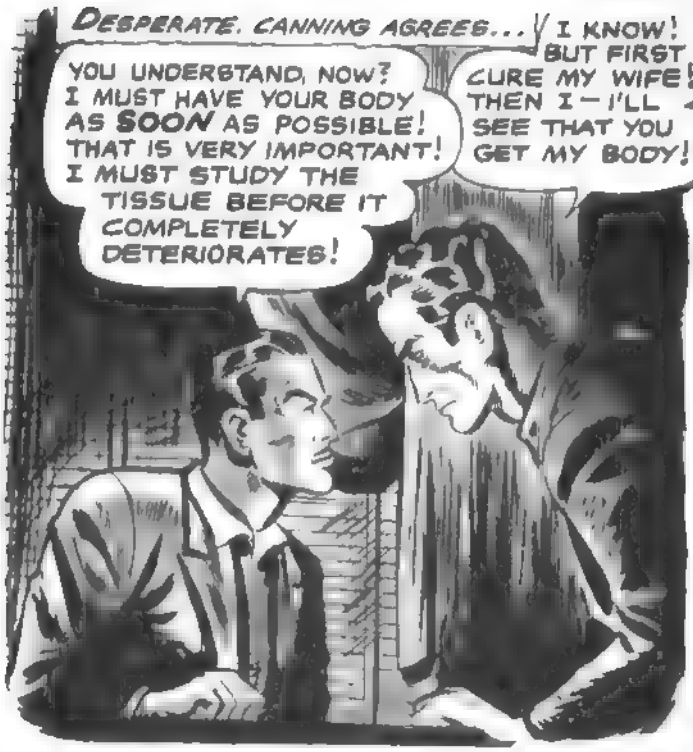
THERE MIGHT BE A WAY, CANNING! BUT I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW, OR HERE! CAN YOU COME TO MY OFFICE TOMORROW? AND YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR A GREAT SHOCK!
YOUR OFFICE? A SHOCK? I — WELL, ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME!

SO NEXT AFTERNOON... Y I — I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS! WHY TEST ME, ANYWAY? IT'S MY WIFE, THE MONEY, WE WERE TO TALK ABOUT!
HERE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE TESTS WE MADE, CANNING! BAD NEWS!

BUT YOU ARE ALSO ILL, CANNING! VERY ILL! I NOTICED THE SYMPTOMS SOME TIME AGO! YOU HAVE A VERY RARE FORM OF TROPICAL DISEASE!
NO! Y-YOU'RE LYING!


NO! IT'S THE TRUTH! YOUR WIFE MIGHT BE CURED, CANNING, BUT YOU ARE A DOOMED MAN! JUST A MATTER OF MONTHS!
ALL RIGHT! SUPPOSE IT IS TRUE! WHAT HAS IT TO DO WITH THE MONEY FOR MY WIFE'S OPERATION?

EVERYTHING! WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOUR TYPE OF THE DISEASE! IF I HAD A BODY — YOUR BODY — TO WORK WITH, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP OTHERS IN THE FUTURE! WILL YOU SELL ME YOUR BODY?


DESPERATE, CANNING AGREES...
YOU UNDERSTAND, NOW? I MUST HAVE YOUR BODY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT! I MUST STUDY THE TISSUE BEFORE IT COMPLETELY DETERIORATES!
I KNOW! BUT FIRST CURE MY WIFE! THEN I—I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET MY BODY!

AND A CHECK CHANGES HANDS...
AS WE AGREED! TEN-THOUSAND DOLLARS!
THANKS! I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS WORTH SO MUCH—DEAD! AND DON'T WORRY—I'LL KEEP MY BARGAIN!

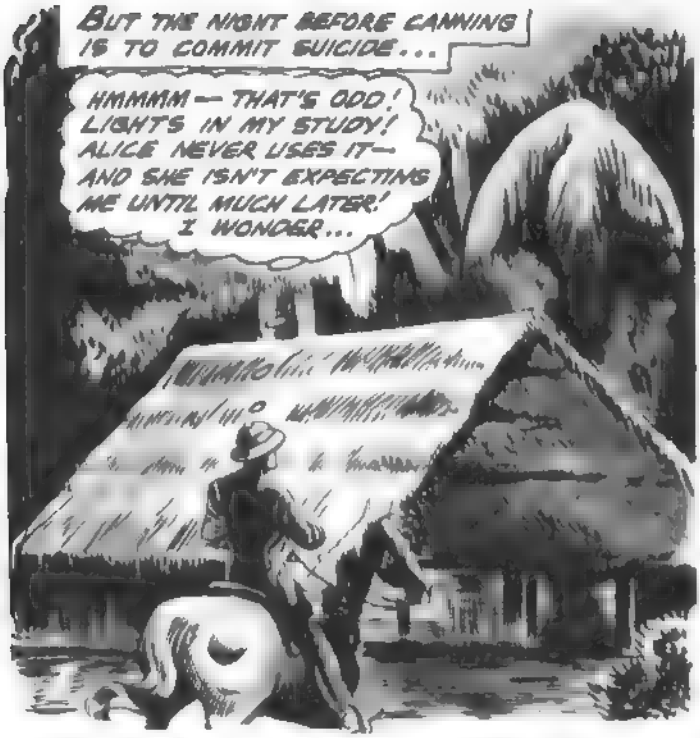
SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
GOODBYE! I'M GLAD YOU'RE GOING TO PERFORM THE OPERATION YOURSELF! IF ONLY ALICE GETS WELL!
IN LONDON SHE HAS A CHANCE! I'LL CABLE YOU! AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

TIME PASSES! CANNING WORKS HARD, BUT THE DOCTOR'S PARTING WORDS HAUNT HIM...
TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! HAH! THE DOCTOR DOESN'T WANT ANTHING TO HAPPEN TO MY PRECIOUS BODY! BUT HE NEEDN'T WORRY! I'LL KEEP UP MY END!

FINALLY...
A CABLE FROM LONDON, URGI! THE OPERATION WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS!
THAT IS GOOD, SIR! I AM MUCH HAPPY TO HEAR!

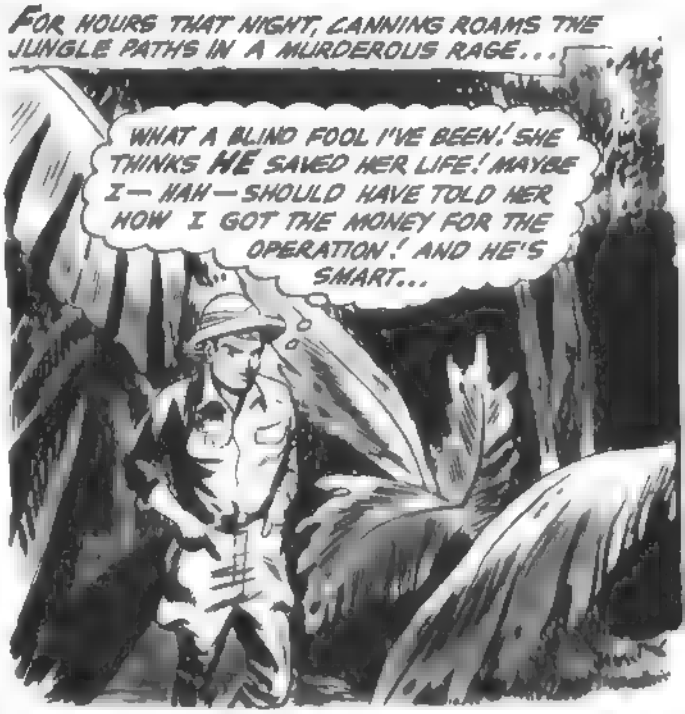
LATER...
ALICE! YOU LOOK MARVELOUS! THE PICTURE OF HEALTH! THANKS, DOCTOR!
HOW CAN WE EVER REPAY DOCTOR BISHOP, DARLING!

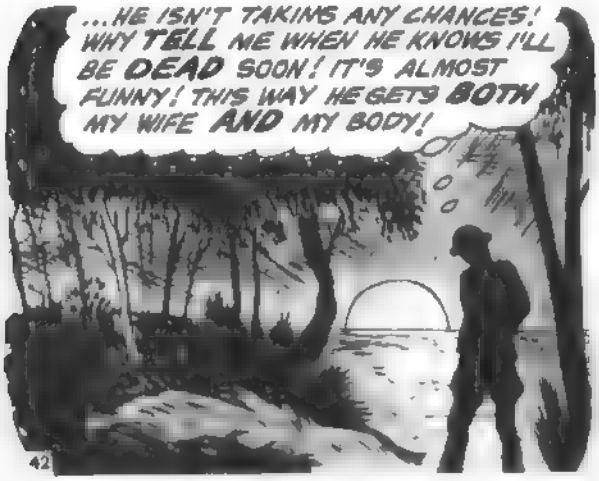
NOW? THE DOCTOR KNOWS...
SHE'S ALL RIGHT NOW, CANNING! BUT DON'T FORGET—I WANT YOUR BODY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
S-SURE! JUST G-GIVE ME A COUPLE OF WEEKS TO CLEAR UP MY AFFAIRS! I—I'LL LET YOU KNOW!

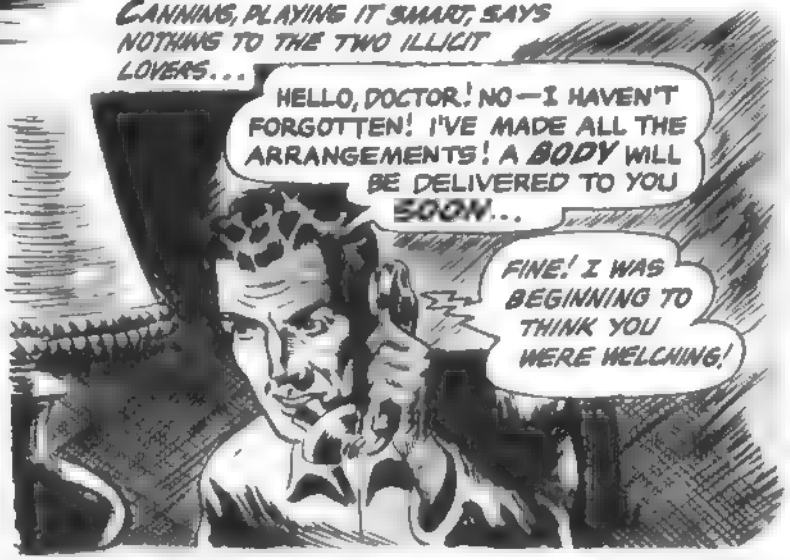

BUT THE NIGHT BEFORE CANNING IS TO COMMIT SUICIDE...
HMMMM — THAT'S ODD! LIGHTS IN MY STUDY! ALICE NEVER USES IT— AND SHE ISN'T EXPECTING ME UNTIL MUCH LATER! I WONDER...

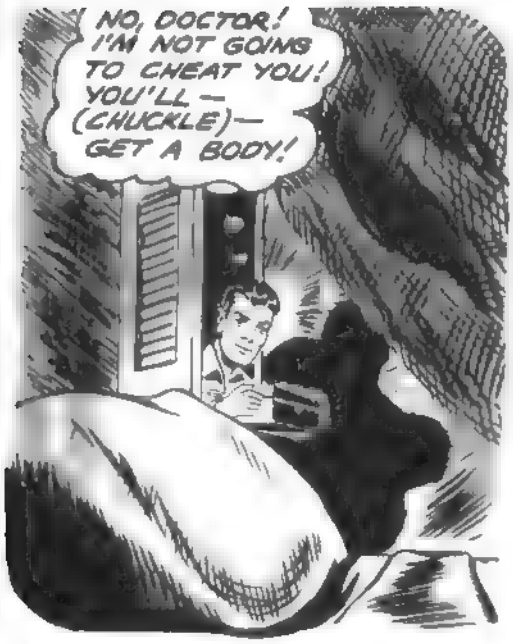
AND...
ALICE! ALICE AND THE DOCTOR! I—I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

OF COURSE I LOVE YOU, DARLING! YOU KNOW THAT! BUT WE MUST TELL REED! EXPLAIN THAT WE FELL IN LOVE IN ENGLAND, AND...
NO, ALICE! DON'T TELL HIM YET! MAYBE— MAYBE THERE WON'T BE ANY NEED TO TELL HIM!


FOR HOURS THAT NIGHT, CANNING ROAMS THE JUNGLE PATHS IN A MURDEROUS RAGE...
WHAT A BLIND FOOL I'VE BEEN! SHE THINKS HE SAVED HER LIFE! MAYBE I— HAH—SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER HOW I GOT THE MONEY FOR THE OPERATION! AND HE'S SMART...


...HE ISN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES! WHY TELL ME WHEN HE KNOWS I'LL BE DEAD SOON! IT'S ALMOST FUNNY! THIS WAY HE GETS BOTH MY WIFE AND MY BODY!


CANNING, PLAYING IT SMART, SAYS NOTHING TO THE TWO ILLICIT LOVERS...
HELLO, DOCTOR! NO—I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN! I'VE MADE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS! A BODY WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOU SOON...
FINE! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WERE WELCHING!


NO, DOCTOR! I'M NOT GOING TO CHEAT YOU! YOU'LL — (CHUCKLE)— GET A BODY!

ONLY IT WON'T BE THE BODY YOU'RE EXPECTING! YOU WANT MY WIFE— AND YOU'LL GET HER!

AN HOUR LATER HE HEARS THE SCREAMS HE HAS BEEN EXPECTING...
EEEEEEEEEEEE—
AHH—AT LAST! HAH—HAH! THE BITE OF THAT PARTICULAR SNAKE KILLS IN A FEW MINUTES!

ALICE! GREAT SCOTT! WHAT—
AHHHHHHH— IT—BIT—ME! HELP!
BRUSH VIPER, MASTER! VERY MUCH BAD! I KILL!
AS CANNING "COMFORTS" HIS DYING WIFE...
ALICE? CAN YOU HEAR ME? BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I DID IT, ALICE! I PUT THE SNAKE THERE!
Y—YOU! SO—YOU— KNEW— ABOUT US!

YES! I KNEW! I — OWWWWW—
YOU! I— HATE— OHHHHHHH—

SHE DEAD, SIR! I MUCH SORRY FOR THIS THING!
DEAD, EH? VERY WELL! I—I'LL TAKE CHARGE OF EVERYTHING, URGI! YOU CAN GO NOW!

SOME HOURS LATER...
CANNING! GREAT SCOTT, MAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT AT THIS HOUR? W-WHAT'S IN THAT BOX?
YOU'LL SEE! YOU'LL FIND OUT THAT I ALWAYS KEEP MY BARGAINS, DOCTOR!

AND...
GOOD HEAVENS! ALICE! YOU KILLED HER!
NO! BUT MAYBE NOW YOU CAN DO A LITTLE RESEARCH ON SNAKE BITE! OR YOU COULD, EXCEPT THAT...

...EXCEPT THAT I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, TOO! YOU WERE A LITTLE TOO GREEDY! NOW YOU GET NEITHER MY BODY OR MY WIFE!
NO! STOP! YOU'RE INSANE!

HAH-HAH! MAYBE I AM! BUT YOU'RE DEAD!
YAAAAAAA-

BUT...
GAAAA-I-FEEL SO FUNNY! I-EVERYTHING B-BLACK! DYING! I KNOW IT-D-DYING!

AS CANNING FEELS THE BLACKNESS SURGING OVER HIM, HE UNDERSTANDS...
THE SNAKE-POISON! ALICE SCRATCHED ME! I GOT IT FROM HER NAILS! UHHHHHHHH-
SO THE DOCTOR GOT HIS BODY AFTER ALL! AND A BONUS OF TWO...
The End

WHEN A MAN WANTS TO LIVE AWAY FROM ALL OTHERS AND HAVE NO CONTACT WITH HIS FELLOW BEINGS, SOMETHING IS WRONG... THE LIFE HE SEEKS IS USUALLY JUST DEATH, HASTENING TOWARD HIM, LIKE A LOVER WITH OPEN ARMS REACHING OUT... THESE TWO KNOW EACH OTHER, THE MAN, AND THE DEATH HE CHOOSES TO CALL HIS OWN...SUBCONSCIOUSLY, LAWRENCE MASON KNEW IT, TOO, WHEN HE SUCCUMBED TO THE GIRL WHO LURED HIM TO A PIT OF...

HISSING HORROR

MASON'S PRIVATE KINGDOM WAS CRAWLING WITH SNAKES... HE CONSIDERED THEM A PERSONAL FOE AND SPENT HIS TIME HUNTING AND KILLING, HOPING SOMEDAY TO FIND HE HAD WON OVER THEM...
INTO THE PIT WITH THE SKELETONS OF THE OTHERS!

BUT IN HIS LAVISH HOME, MASON FOUND IT A STRANGE, LONELY PLACE...
AHH... THE RAIN'S A PLEASANT SOUND...

WHA... WHAT'S THIS? A WOMAN! HERE, ON MY ISLAND! IMPOSSIBLE!
LET ME IN! PLEASE GIVE ME SHELTER!

HOW DID YOU GET HERE? COME... YOU MUST BE HALF DROWNED...
I'M LOST... I SAW YOUR LIGHT BURNING...

WILLIAMS, BRING SOME FOOD. WE HAVE AN UNEXPECTED GUEST!
A WOMAN, SIR! Y-YES, SIR...

MY NAME IS ASPTHA... I COME FROM...
DON'T TELL ME! YOU'LL BREAK THE ENCHANTMENT! I HAVE NEVER KNOWN A CREATURE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ARE...

I'M WEARY... IT'S BEEN A STRAIN TO REACH HERE...
FORGIVE ME. WILLIAMS WILL PREPARE QUARTERS FOR YOU... YOU NEED SOME REST... WE'LL TALK IN THE MORNING...

GOOD NIGHT, BEAUTIFUL VISITOR... SLEEP WELL...
I WILL... MY MIND IS AT PEACE... NOW!

SNAKE! INVADING MY HOME! IN THE VERY CHAIR SHE USED! IT COULD HAVE STUNG HER! MAYBE POISONED HER!

YOU GO TOO FAR, UGLY ENEMY! BUT YOU WILL JOIN THE LEGIONS OF OTHERS LIKE YOU THAT I HAVE SLAIN! FROM THE DEEPEST CORNERS OF MY HEART I DESPISE YOU... DIE! DIE!

INTO THE PIT! THANK GOODNESS YOU DIDN'T FRIGHTEN THE ANGEL OF THE STORM WHO SLEEPS LIKE A CHILD INSIDE...

CURSING TRAILED OFF TO A LAUGHTER THAT BORDERED ON MADNESS...
SHE WILL NEVER LOOK UPON YOU... NEVER! NEVER!

MASON ROSE WITH THE EARLY SUN... HE HAD ADDED FERVOR IN HIS HATING AND HUNTING NOW...
NEVER SAW SO MANY OF THEM AT ONE TIME... MUST BE THE RAIN...

WHAT IS THIS YOU ARE DOING?
OH! GOOD MORNING! I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO SEE... REALLY NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT...

DON'T MOVE! YOUR LIFE IS IN THE BALANCE... A GIAINT RATTLER... I'M GOING TO SHOOT...

THANK HEAVENS I WAS HERE TO SAVE YOU! I GUESS I MUST CONFESS NOW. THIS ISLAND IS INFESTED WITH SNAKES! I KILL AS MANY AS I SEE... AND DISPOSE OF THEM...

YOU SEE, I'LL WIN OUT OVER THEM SOMEDAY! HUNDREDS! ALL DEAD... SOMEDAY MY ISLAND WILL BE FREE...

I'M SORRY. I CAN IMAGINE HOW SHOCKING THIS MUST BE TO YOU... I GET CARRIED AWAY WITH LOATHING... FORGIVE ME! A MOST DISTRESSING SCENE FOR A WOMAN TO WITNESS... YOU'RE NOT ANGRY?
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!

MASON'S GUEST WAS ALMOST SILENT DURING THE DAY... BY EVENING, SHE ASKED TO SEE THE GROUNDS, AND RELUCTANTLY HE AGREED...
THE ISLAND IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT FOR THE SNAKES...
YES. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE!

BE CAREFUL! OHH...
AIEEEE—

SHE'S DISAPPEARED! WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IT'S NOT ONE OF MY SNAKE PITS! A CAVE!

...HORROR STRUCK MASON'S HEART AS HE PEERED INTO THE BLACKNESS...
GOT TO FIND HER! THAT POOR GIRL IS A VICTIM OF MISFORTUNE! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!

THE PITCH DARKNESS SERVED TO ENLIGHTEN MASON... HE MADE A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY...
I LOVE HER! I NEVER DREAMED THERE COULD BE SUCH A WOMAN! I MUST FIND HER... I'LL TELL HER... BEG HER TO MARRY ME...

HER VOICE! SHE'S SOBBING! WEEPING IN TERROR... HOW STRANGE HER CRIES SOUND! ONE WOULD ALMOST MISTAKE IT FOR LAUGHTER!
I'M COMING! HERE I AM... WHERE ARE YOU?

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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A THOUSAND STINGING BARBS STRUCK HIS BODY AT A SINGLE STROKE... POISON SHOT INTO HIS VEINS AND CREATED AN INSTANT ROARING FIRE OF PAIN... BUT MASON DID NOT DROP, FOR HE WAS STARING AT THE WOMAN HE LOVED...

I'M DYING, I KNOW... BUT YOU... WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU? IS IT BECAUSE I HAVE GONE MAD AS WELL?
YOUR DEATH TIME IS SLOWER THAN YOU HOPE FOR, MAN. AND YOU ARE NOT CLOUDED BY ANY MADNESS!

YOU SEE WHAT YOU SEE! THE QUEEN OF THE KINGDOM YOU TRIED TO DESTROY! HOW WE LOATHE YOU! INDEED I HAVE PROVEN AS MUCH BY TAKING ON ANOTHER FORM TO LURE YOU HERE...

... YOU WEAK FOOL! I MADE YOU LOVE WHAT YOU HATED! WE ROAMED THE EARTH AGES BEFORE YOUR KIND CAME TO TROUBLE US AND TO KILL US... BUT IN THE END WE WILL TAKE OVER AGAIN...

THE HISSING VOICE... THAT SPOKE HUMAN WORDS CONTINUED AND MASON TRIED TO DIE... TRIED TO ESCAPE A HAUNTING FACT... ALL OF HIS LIFE HE HAD BEEN A COWARD... A MAN AFRAID OF SNAKES... AND LIFE...

IT'S OVER, MY PETS... BUT THERE WILL BE OTHERS... AND THEY, TOO, WILL DESTROY THEMSELVES...
SO ENDS THE EERIE TALE OF LAWRENCE MASON... A MAN WHO LIVED AND LOST!
The End